



PASS Update to the Child Welfare Council
September 2, 2015

The basis for the Council's work on priority access is:

1. The state has a moral, legal, and fiscal obligation to do everything possible to support child and family well-being; and
2. Housing, Behavioral Health, Corrections, and Workforce are serving the same families and the outcomes in one area impact outcomes for all the other departments.

All four Agency Teams initially brought enthusiasm, commitment, and resources to operationalize priority access within their departments. Along the way some of the anticipated challenges were confirmed: legislative/regulations-based and fiscal resource limitations.

The Agency teams are reporting that there are also limitations in administrative capacity to broaden focus to incorporate priority access. The PASS Leadership team is taking a step back to look at where we are and what it will take to realize the vision of priority access. Meanwhile,

- The **Behavioral Health Team** has formed a Workgroup comprised of state and county child welfare and Behavioral Health partners that is looking at ways to leverage priority access strategies with existing departmental priorities. For example, DHCS/BH anticipates a federal planning grant starting October 1st to plan for Community Certified Behavioral Health Centers. This planning effort will incorporate some of the goals and logistics for priority access for FR families.
- The **Housing and Community Development** team is continuing to explore ways to align existing and anticipated resources to better serve parents in reunification. A challenge in this area is working to allow reunification families to be prioritized as a specific high-need population. Lisa Bates has been appointed as a member of the Council and will join starting in December.
- The **Workforce Investment Board** released a 4.2 million grant opportunity, a portion of which had the potential to be directed to explore effective strategies for assisting parents in reunification with employment. Unfortunately there were few proposals in this area, and none were funded. The WIB has completed its commitment to PASS.
- The **Corrections/Probation Team** postponed their forum to invite input from community and parent partners due to administrative capacity limitations. More to follow in December.